

Institute of National Remembrance

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Hungarian state decorations for the President of the Institute of National Remembrance and the Director of the IPN's Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom

The President of the Institute of National Remembrance Dr Jarosław Szarek received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, the Director of the IPN's Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom, Adam Siwek, was awarded the Gold Cross of the Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.















The decorations were presented by the Hungarian Ambassador to

Poland Orsolya Zsuzsanna Kovács during a gala on 6 December 2019 at the Hungarian Embassy. Seven individuals, including Joanna Wnuk-Nazarowa - the Director General of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice and Prof. Zbigniew Wawer - the Director of the Royal Łazienki Museum were honoured with Hungarian state awards.

The ceremony began with a Christmas concert of the legendary Hungarian folk group Muzsikás. Then, Ambassador Kovács thanked all those awarded for their help in cultivating Hungarian-Polish friendship. She emphasized that thanks to them, the promotion of Hungarian culture and history was even more effective in reaching Polish society.

- The awards for the management of the Institute of National Remembrance are proof of recognition for the activities of the IPN aimed at strengthening and developing Hungarian-Polish relations and for commemorating Hungarian national heroes. Hungarians are grateful for your work, which is a memento of our wonderful relationship - Ambassador Kovács stated.

The President of the Institute of National Remembrance emphasized that the distinction he received was, in fact, awarded to the entire Institute of National Remembrance. *- Polish-Hungarian friendship is a fact, I believe that it will continue to thrive - Dr Szarek concluded his speech.*

Dyrektor Biura Upamiętniania Walk i Męczeństwa przyznał, że jego osobista sympatia do narodu węgierskiego jest uwarunkowana

rodzinnie. - *Jeżeli miałbym spojrzeć na katalog miejsc pamięci, w realizacji których miałem przyjemność uczestniczyć, to wybrałbym dwa szczególnie dla mnie symboliczne: tablicę znajdującą się na pl. Marszałka Piłsudskiego w hołdzie narodowi węgierskiemu za pomoc w 1920 roku podczas wojny polsko-bolszewickiej oraz pomnik ppłk. Antala Somssicha w Zalakomár na Węgrzech* - powiedział. - *Bardzo dziękuję za to wyróżnienie, oczywiście jest to dla mnie zobowiązanie, żeby kolejne takie polsko-węgierskie miejsca pamięci realizować* - zapewnił na zakończenie dyrektor BUWiM.

The Director of the IPN's Office for the Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom admitted that his personal affection for the Hungarian nation is conditioned also by his family. - If I were to look back at the catalogue of memorial sites, in the implementation of which I had the pleasure to participate, I would choose two sites which are particularly symbolic for me: the plaque located on Marshal Piłsudski Square in tribute to the Hungarian Nation for its aid offered in 1920 during the Polish-Bolshevik war, and a monument to Lt. Col. Antal Somssich in Zalakomár, Hungary, he said. - Thank you very much for this distinction, which of course, constitutes an additional motivation for me to pursue such Polish-Hungarian memorial site projects in the future - assured the Director of the IPN's Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom.

Among the guests attending the ceremony were Dr Mateusz Szpytma, the Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, the Director of the IPN's Office of the President and Social Communication,

Dr Dorota Koczwańska-Kalita, the Director of the IPN's National Education Office, Adam Hlebowicz, the Director of the Museum of Cursed Soldiers and Political Prisoners of the Polish People's Republic Jacek Pawłowicz and Deputy Directors of the IPN Archive, Dr Mariusz Żuławnik and Mariusz Kwaśniak.

The Institute of National Remembrance is involved in cooperation with Hungarian institutions in many fields. We have joint scientific conferences, publications, exhibitions, events related to the celebration of important anniversaries as well as joint care over Hungarian and Polish memorial sites.

In June 2017, a monument dedicated to a Pole, Henryk Sławik and a Hungarian, Jozef Antall, was unveiled in Budapest. Sławik and Antall are considered to be heroes of Poland, Hungary and Israel - during World War II they saved at least 5,000 Polish Jews. The monument, the erection of which was financed by the IPN's Office for Commemorating the Struggle and Martyrdom, presents Sławik and Antall talking at a table.

On 19 September 2017 on Matejko street in Warsaw, a monument to Hungarian soldiers who during the Warsaw Uprising - as formal allies of the Germans - not only refused to fight against Poles, but also assisted Home Army soldiers by supplying them with weapons and ammunition and by caring for the wounded. The ceremony was organized by the Institute of National Remembrance and the Hungarian Institute of

Culture in Warsaw. The monument was financed by the Institute of National Remembrance.

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